

# *Sketch*

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## They

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# They

Phyllis Thompson

## **Abstract**

They've won again. They're always winning. And They don't just barely win; They break records with Their victories; They win decisively...

# They

Phyllis Thompson

THEY'VE won again. They're always winning. And They don't just barely win; They break records with Their victories; They win decisively. Place your bets on Them; you'll never lose. Whether it's sexy movies or jet propulsion They're always on top. How could They fail; don't They have the best? And They don't mean just the best engineers or soldiers, restaurants or radios; oh no, They mean the best of everything.

What if They are the youngest? Haven't They progressed faster in the last 171 years than China has in 2,000? There's no need to record that Leonardo da Vinci made an airplane that embodies the same physics principles which Their modern aviation does. His fifteenth century "flying bird" is just an atom on a runway compared with the huge transport planes They've designed.

What does it matter if They do burn oranges and corn while the rest of the world starves? They deserve to do what They wish. After all, who was it who paid income taxes and property taxes and inheritance taxes and sales taxes and luxury taxes?

What if John Dalton was the first person to recognize the atom? They were the first to smash it.

And why bother to recognize that the best literature came from France and Germany and Russia and England? They've got more writers than you can shake a "True Confessions" at.

What if England did abolish slavery sixty-three years before They did? They were the first ones to give Negroes a special place on buses, the first ones to see that they weren't inconvenienced by school and voting and having to eat with whites in restaurants.

And what if Greenland citizens are so law-abiding that they don't need police? At least They had foresight enough to see that by maintaining police forces unemployment might be relieved, especially in large peaceful cities like New York and Chicago.

Yes, place your bets on Them. And put your confidence and hope in Them too. But don't invest it all; no, keep a little bit for yourself. Then you'll have a tiny something to support you after the barker's voice is dry, after the last national flag has been hauled down.

- violin artistry, by Isaac Stern, in a Sunday night concert
- new emphasis on national organizations, with local chapters of the League of Women Voters, Young Progressive Citizen's League, American Veterans' Committee, and Student Federalists supplementing the growing activity of the departmental clubs
- the first publication of *Three Quarters*, a magazine for freshmen writings
- an art exhibit of oils, documenting scenes of World War II, shown in Great Hall
- a series of early films, indicating the rise of American movies from beginning stages, shown in Agricultural Assembly
- a lecture by Richard C. Patterson, ambassador to Yugoslavia, speaking on the situation in the Balkans
- new outlets for the Iowa State Players, with the creation of Laboratory Theater, producing unusual, experimental one-act plays, augmenting the winter three-act play, *The Devil Passes*
- radio dramatics by the WOI Workshop, under the direction of Ed Wegener, broadcasting weekly mystery plays
- a new kind of musical comedy, *Yearbook of 1947*, satirizing college life, written by Norm Filbert and Bruce Weiser
- an atmosphere of urgency, students evaluating courses and professors, reaching for private goals, crowding library and classroom facilities, pausing for hurried glances at bulletin boards, scanning the news, wondering about the latest publicized mystery, studying, arguing, taking time for a Union lab, trying to live on \$65 or 90 a month . . .

. . . *forming the campus picture*